REMARKS

Claims 2-26 and 28 are pending in this application, of which claims 2, 7, 9, 13, 15 and 18-23 have been amended. Claim 1 has been cancelled. No new claims have been added.

The Examiner has rejected the claims as follows:

1. Claims 1-3, 18-21 and 23-26 under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by JP Patent Publication 07216536 (hereinafter "**JP '536**");
2. Claims 4-8 and 13-17 under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over **JP '536**;
3. Claims 9-12 under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over **JP '536** in view of U.S. Patent 3,948,003 to Pletscher (hereinafter "**Pletscher**"); and
4. Claim 22 under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over **JP '536** in view of U.S. Patent 5,782,677 to Kanouse (hereinafter "**Kanouse**").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

JP '536 discloses an omnidirectional simultaneous vapor-deposition polymerizer, including a chamber 1 connected through valves 18a, 18b to monomer vessels 5a, 5b. A material to be deposited is placed in a barrel 10 in the chamber 1, and, for example, 4,4'-diaminodiphenyl ether is filled in one couple of the monomer vessels 5a and 5b and pyromellitic dianhydride in another couple of the monomer vessels. The barrel 10 is rotated with a motor 11, the chamber is evacuated to a specified pressure with an exhaust pipe 2, the chamber 1, inlet pipes 6a and 6b and exhaust pipe 2 are respectively heated with an embedded heater 13, the valves 18a and 18b are simultaneously opened, and a polyimide film is formed on the entire surface of the material.

Although the Examiner has urged that the barrels have a stop which is the intersection of the barrel walls, Fig. 1 of **JP '536** does not show a cross section of each barrel so it cannot be determined if each barrel has a slide stop for stopping a slide of the work piece along the inner peripheral surface of the tubular barrel, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application. Fig. 7 shows barrels 10 being a hexagonal cross-section, where the internal angles are each 120°. Thus, there is no suggestion that the barrel has a sectional shape in which at least one corner provided at the slide stop forms an internal angle of 30° to 100°, as recited in claim 2 of the instant application. Accordingly, claim 2 has been amended to be in independent form to include the limitations of claim 1, which has been cancelled.

JP '536 also fails to teach a convex curve for the sectional shape of the barrel, as recited in claim 7, which has been amended to be independent form.

The effect brought about by employing the structure of the present invention described on page 9, lines 4 to 12 of the present specification, that is, "because the work pieces are...in a plate or bow form", is not described or suggested in **JP '536**.

Pletscher has been cited for teaching a dry surface treating apparatus having a tubular barrel having protrusions (stops) for treating work pieces.

As noted in Applicants' previous response, **Pletscher** fails to teach a porous peripheral surface of the tubular barrel, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application, and therefore cannot be combined with **JP '536** to teach protrusions serving as the slide stop, as recited in claim 9. It is clear from the disclosure of **Pletscher** that the protrusions taught therein are formed only by appropriately

shaping the non-porous coating or covering 3, which is formed of rubber, plastic or wood. The porous barrel surface of the present invention (e.g., mesh net) would not provide adequate support for the protrusions of **Pletscher**. Accordingly, claim 9 has been amended to be in independent form.

Kanouse has been cited for teaching a blasting nozzle, but, like the other cited references, fails to teach, mention or suggest the limitations of claims 2, 7 or 9, as amended, from which claim 22, as amended, depends.

Thus, the prior art rejections should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 2-26 and 28, as amended, are in condition for allowance; which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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